



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2008

Residential Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

By Sharon Colby, Commissioner (Spokane 3) and Region 1 Board Director

Those of us involved in fire service know that we have two really important objectives, to SAVE LIVES and PROTECT PROPERTY. We do as much as we can, within the resources available to us, to train our firefighters and provide the necessary equipment for fire fighting.

We also try to educate our citizens about safety, such as using smoke detectors in our homes and having evacuation plans for our family to use if there should be a fire. But there is another proven safety feature that is starting to gain attention and that is residential fire sprinklers.

Maybe it is time for fire commissioners and other fire service personnel to start spreading the word about the value of residential fire sprinklers

The following facts were taken from the National Fire Protection Association which collected statistics from communities nationwide. The news is startling.

In 2004, the percent of fire deaths in one and two-family dwellings was 70% in homes with no working smoke detector. In homes with a working smoke detector, the fire deaths dropped to 30%. But in homes with fire sprinkler systems, there were no reported deaths—that is correct—NONE - ZERO!

Here are some additional facts to consider:

- 81% of civilian fire deaths occur in one and two-family dwellings.
- Most fire deaths are caused by inhalation of smoke and toxic gases.
- Sprinklers activate in the first few minutes of a fire.

See Sprinklers on Page Four

Proposed Bylaw Changes Due

The deadline for submitting proposed amendments to the *WFCA Articles of Association and Bylaws* is May 15, 2008.

Please submit proposals to the WFCA at P. O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507, Fax 360.664.0415 or email wfca@wfca.wa.gov.

If you would like a copy of the current bylaws for review, please visit www.wfca.wa.gov or call the WFCA office at 800.491.9322.

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A Message from the President by Joe Dawson



Hallelujah, the snow has finally melted off my lawn here in the Spokane Valley. I don't care if I don't see

anymore of the white stuff for another ten years.

With that said, I want to let you all know what great response we have had to our Saturday seminars. We had 80 commissioners, chiefs and secretaries in attendance at the Spokane seminar on February 23. That is up from the old record of 50.

As I write this article on March 14, tomorrow's seminar in Ocean Shores has 188 folks pre-registered. That is up from the old record of 130.

Also, we are some two and a half months away from the Chelan

seminar and we already have 120 folks registered. Kudos to Les Riel and all the members of the Education Committee for a job well done.

...Our goal is to have this ad hoc committee comprised of members who have not taken an active role in the association.

I mentioned in a previous article that your WFCA Board has been putting the finishing touches on our Strategic Plan. One of the initiatives in that plan calls for the WFCA President to call for a membership survey strike team with a representative from each of the regions that would help us determine how we can effectively encourage more membership par-

ticipation in the WFCA. Our goal is to have this ad hoc committee comprised of members who have not taken an active role in the association.

As we did not budget for such a committee in our 2008 budget, we plan on the committee meeting via a conference call, the date to be determined. The call should last no longer than 30 minutes or so. If you would be interested in serving on this ad hoc committee, please call Amber at the WFCA office (1.800.491.9322) and inform her of your interest. We sincerely hope that we have a representative from each of the nine regions. Your participation will be genuinely appreciated.

Until the next issue, I wish you all good luck and good fortune as you represent the electorate in each of your districts.

WFCA Board Biographies

In our continuing series of WFCA Board biographies, this month we feature Robert Skaggs and Joe Dawson.



Bob Skaggs

ROBERT SKAGGS

Bob Skaggs began his service on the WFCA Board as Region 7 Director in January 2004. During the 2007 conference in Pasco, he was reelected to his third term as Region 7 Director.

Bob has served as Fire Commissioner for Graham Fire and Rescue

in Pierce County for the past 16 years; he currently holds the position of Chairman of the Board. He has received recognition at WFCA conferences for 10 and 15 years of service as a fire commissioner.

With over 41 years of combined experience in law enforcement and the fire service, Bob is currently the senior Fire/Arson Investigator for the Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office and he works with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department criminal in-

See Biography on Page Four

ON THE WEB

A new website has been launched for the WFCA's Health Care Program. This site is dedicated solely to providing plan participants with comprehensive resources and information related to the WFCA benefit program. Log on to www.wfcabenefits.com today!



Novelty Lighter Coding Added to NFIRS

Novelty lighters are a growing concern in the fire community due to their likeness to toys and lack of child-resistant ignition. If one of these devices gets into the wrong hands, there can be devastating consequences.

With the release of the 2008 NFIRS specification by the United States Fire Administration, fires started by novelty lighters can now be clearly documented in the program.

You will find Novelty Lighters in the Fire Module under the Equipment Involved in Ignition field: 877 Novelty Lighter.

Each fire agency is encouraged to educate their personnel on the importance of entering essential data into NFIRS and institute a review process to ensure the most accurate information is entered and reported. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission regularly reviews NFIRS data reported to the national level in an effort to identify trends. Products such as children's sleepwear and household appliances have been made safer as a result of the information made available through NFIRS.

If your fire agency has questions or needs assistance with NFIRS, please contact Deputy State Fire Marshal Melissa Gannie at melissa.gannie@wsp.wa.gov or at 360.753.0523.



Municipal Research and Services Center

Who Are We and Why Should You Care?

By Richard Yukubousky, MRSC Executive Director

The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) is a non-profit organization created in 1969 to continue programs established in 1934 at the University of Washington. In 1997, Washington counties joined cities in funding MRSC, and in 2007, special districts were added when the state legislature created and funded a small pilot program. Our mission is "working together for excellence in local government through professional consultation, research and information services."

The MRSC website is a storehouse of more than 200,000 documents relating to local government in Washington. This site contains weekly news, sample documents, responses to common questions received by MRSC, state statutes and administrative rules, court decisions, and more. Nearly 500,000 local officials, state officials, and citizens currently visit our site monthly. Many local officials tell us that the site has become their first stop for local government information.

A principal service of the MRSC is to respond to inquiries by providing advice and information about local government. MRSC has been specifically directed to respond to written legal inquiries on governance questions from special purpose districts. The most effective way to get started is to go to the MRSC website (www.mrsc.org) and select "Research Request" under the Research Tools heading on the main navigation menu.

All MRSC publications completed since 1993 are on the web and may be downloaded. While most publications have not yet been updated to address issues unique to special districts, many of them contain information that is relevant to special purpose districts. We have updated *Knowing the Territory – Basic Legal Guidelines for Washington City, County and Special Purpose District Officials*. It contains an overview of the key legal doctrines that apply to elected local government officials, specifically Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records Act, Conflict of Interest, Appearance of Fairness and so on.

If you have questions about MRSC, please contact us: Municipal Research and Services Center, 2601 4th Ave., Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98121-1280, 206.625.1300, 206.625.1220 (fax), www.mrsc.org.

Biographies From Page Two

vestigations division. He is the seventh certified fire investigator in the state of Washington and holds an international certification as an arson investigator and a certification as company level fire inspector.

In addition, Bob holds a degree in criminal justice and is a graduate of the National Law Enforcement Academy, Glenco, GA, ATF, The National Fire Academy, numerous classes, Emmitsburg, MA, and the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Academy.

He is also an on call instructor at the Bates Fire Academy and an evaluator for the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office for field fire investigators and has taught classes at Pierce College in the areas of inspections, investigations and fire systems.

Bob serves as the Shop Steward for Local #120 AFSCME and is a founding member of the Graham

area Community Planning Board.

Bob has served as President of the Pierce County Fire Commissioners Association for two years and has served on the State Executive Board of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees for 10 years.

Bob and his wife of 36 years, Barbara, have three daughters: Janelle, Kimberly and Mitchell, son Kevin, son in-law Andy and two grandsons, Aaron and Ian.



Joe Dawson

JOE DAWSON

President since January 1, 2007, Joe Dawson began his service on the WFCA Board as Secretary-Treasurer in 2005.

Joe has been a fire commissioner for 10 years with Spokane Valley Fire & Rescue. From 1959 to 1962, he fought forest fires during the summer. He served on the Spo-

kane Valley Fire Department Civil Service Commission from 1984 to 1990.

Joe received his BA in Education and MA in Educational Administration from Gonzaga University. He retired after 38 years as an educator in Washington State (13 years as a junior high teacher, 15 years as a junior high/middle school principal and 10 years in various central office positions). Joe served as President of the Washington Middle Level Principals Association during the 1988-89 school year.

Joe married JoAnn in 1963 and they were blessed with four fine sons and eight wonderful grandchildren. Joe and JoAnn love to go camping in their motor home (according to Joe, not a great big fancy one—just a warm, cozy comfortable one). Joe and JoAnn love to read and enjoy a game of cribbage now and then.

Sprinklers From Page One

- Sprinklers help contain the fire.
- Sprinklers help keep temperatures low and are designed to reduce production of smoke and toxic gases.
- Sprinklers provide time for occupants to safely escape.
- Sprinklers are temperature sensitive and only activate in the area of the fire.
- Where residential sprinklers were in use, property damage was reduced by as much as 90%.
- In new home construction, sprinklers cost less than 1 to 1.5% of the total building price.

- Sprinklers provide a Home Fire Insurance reduction up to 20% from Safeco, State Farm, and Allstate Insurance companies.

Maybe it is time for fire commissioners and other fire service personnel to start spreading the word about the value of residential fire sprinklers. It is just one more way to save lives and protect property.

For more information, check out www.homefiresprinkler.org or www.firesafehome.org. You can also contact Washington State Association of Fire Marshals at www.wsafm.com or at 360.943.5750.

CORRECTION

In the February issue of *Fireline*, WFCA Region 1 Board Director Sharon Colby was featured in the Board Biography and was identified as a fire commissioner with Spokane 1. Mrs. Colby is in fact a commissioner with Spokane County Fire Protection District 3. The WFCA regrets the error.

Ads

FOR SALE by King 27 (Fall City):

- SCBA: 14 Scott Air-pak 50 4.5. w/integrated PASS, \$275 ea.
- Bottles: 31 Carbon Fiber, 45 min., 4500 psig, \$200 ea.
- Masks: 36 AV 2000 masks, 26L, 5XL, 5S \$25 ea.
- Misc: 5 Voice amps, \$50 ea.

Plus various spare parts. Contact Fire Chief Chris Connor or Lieutenant Jake Koehnen at 4 2 5 . 2 2 2 . 5 8 4 1 , jkoehnen@king27fire.com.

FOR SALE by Mason 2: Ten (10) SCBA Bottles. They were manufactured in 2002 and are due for Hydrostatic Testing. Otherwise they are in good to great condition. MAKE: MSA. MODEL: Stealth L30. CAPACITY: 45cu.ft. @ 2216 psi. COST: \$100.00 per Cylinder. Also for sale: Fifteen (15) MSA ICM PASS devices. They are in-line with a built-in remote pressure gauge and activate automatically when you open the SCBA Cylinder. They are all in great condition and function well. MAKE: MSA. MODEL: ICM 2000. COST: \$80.00 per PASS. For questions or information please contact Captain Scott Cooper at 360.275.6711 Ext. 108.

FOR SALE by Pend Oreille 3: The Commissioners of Pend Oreille 3 have declared the following items surplus and offer them for general sale to the public and fire departments. All items are sold on "as is where is basis". No warranties are expressed or implied. The district will also accept best offer bids on the following equipment. To view the equipment please call Chief Mark Havener at 509.447.5305 or email at mark@pofd3.org. Items

can also be viewed at <http://www.pofd3.org/surplus.htm>.

- One 1986 Ford E350 Diesel 4wd Type III ambulance. Good compartments inside and out. Vanner inverter and (2) 500 watt telescoping scene lights Well maintained, still in service. Includes Ferno one man cot. Available June 2008. 82k miles, \$5500 obo.
- One 1985 Mack MS-200 Water Tender, Mack Diesel, 5 spd manual, 500 gpm Berkley pto pump, 1800 gallon tank, rear quick dump. Spray bars 4 corners and right side, 100' hose reel. Air gap fill Nice running small tender, very maneuverable. \$10,000 obo.
- One 1981 Mack MC Series Fire Engine. All Mack fire truck build # MC686F15 chassis # 1045. 54,000 miles, originally from Park City, Utah. Fire District 3 has used and maintained vehicle until last December. 750 gallon tank, 1500 waterous 2-stage pump, Mack Diesel, Allison automatic, front suction, deck gun, on-spot chains, 6" suction hose. \$10,000 obo.

FOR SALE by Snohomish 22 (Getchell): The Board of Commissioners of Snohomish 22 is accepting sealed bids on the following equipment:

- Quantity of 11 HT1000 VHF Motorola portable radios w/chargers.
- Quantity of 3 Motorola HT 1250 VHF portable radios.
- Quantity of 12 Motorola Mini-tor III pagers VHF w/chargers.
- Quantity of 3 Motorola Mini-

tor IV Pagers VHF w/chargers.

All equipment listed was operational when it was pulled from service. All equipment is to be considered as is where is no warranty expressed or implied. All equipment will only be sold in one lot. Bids will be opened on April 21, 2008. Submit sealed bids to: Snohomish County Fire District No. 22, 8424 99th Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223. ATTN: Surplus Radio Equipment. The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to refuse any bid. If you have any questions please email Chief Travis Hots at chiefhots@getchellfire.com.

FOR SALE by Spokane 4: One Tektronix Phaser 850 DX color "Hard-Ink" technology printer. This is a network ready printer with USB local hookup available. Printer was taken out of service two years ago and comes with all required software and a small supply of ink. For more information, contact Howard Johnson at 509.467.4500. Bids can be submitted by email to joek@scfd4.org or fax at 509.467.6032. The best offer submitted over \$100 by 4 p.m. local time on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 will be accepted.

FOR SALE by The Puget Sound Skills Center's Fire Services Program: 1985 Hahn/Beck Pumper--Detroit 6V92 diesel engine, Allison transmission, Darley 2 stage pump, 1500 gpm, 500 gallon water tank, 70,196 miles, passed last pump test, service and maintenance records available. \$14,000 OBO. Click here for photo. Call 206.907.1231 or email Robb Lovre at lovrera@hsd401.org.

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